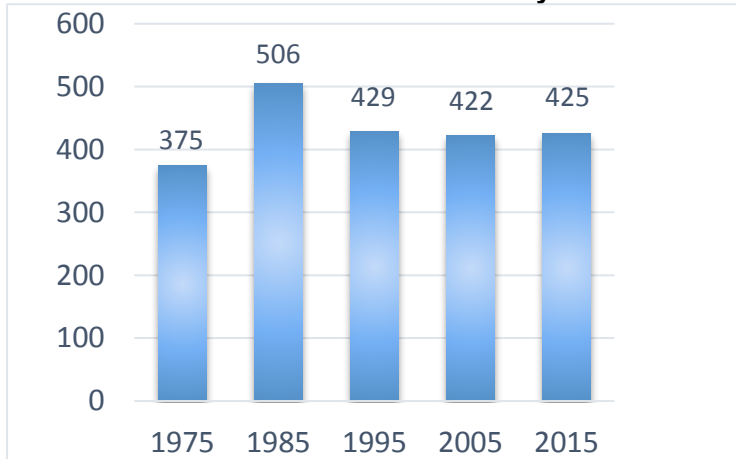


## Summary of Dairy Statistics for St. Croix County

Ryan Sterry, Agriculture Agent  
UW-Extension St. Croix County

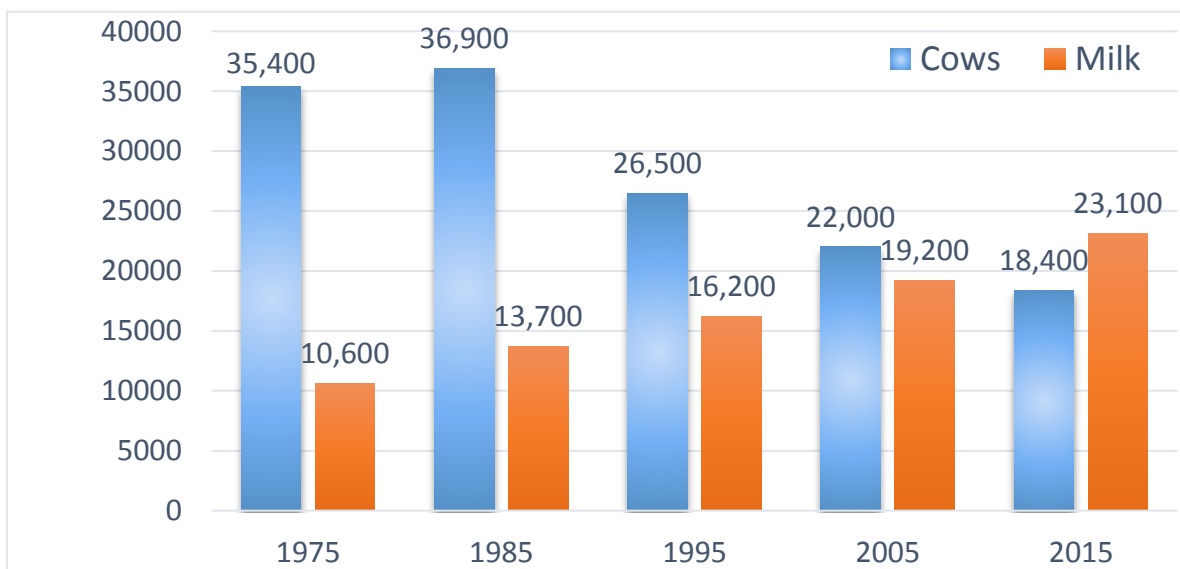
Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service - Wisconsin Field Office ([https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Wisconsin/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Wisconsin/)) provides agricultural statistics in the Annual Statistical Bulletin, and more detailed statistics in the national Census of Agriculture. These selected statistics are intended to give a brief snapshot of dairy production in St. Croix County.

### Total milk production (million lbs) between 1975 and 2015 for St. Croix County



Total milk production has trended on a slight decline to being relatively stable in the county since the 1990's. Year to year fluctuations show more variation. In the last five years, 2013 represented the low with 391 million pounds produced, and 2015 the high at 425 million pounds.

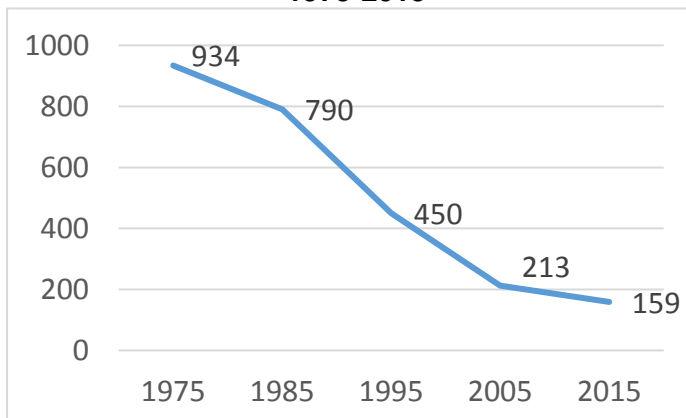
### Number of dairy cows and milk per cow (lbs/year) in St. Croix County 1975-2015



The number of dairy cows in St. Croix County has been on a steady decline since the 1980s. The past five years showed a sharper decline from 2012 to 2013, with a low of 18,200 cows in 2013. Modest gains back were made in 2014 & 2015.

The most consistent trend is milk per cow. Annual production per cow has more than doubled since 1975. Despite declines in cow numbers, increased production per cow has kept total milk production relatively stable in recent years. This follows similar trends statewide and nationally. Milk is sold on a weight basis to account for differences in fat, protein and other solids content. The average production of 23,100 lbs per cow equals roughly 2,686 gallons.

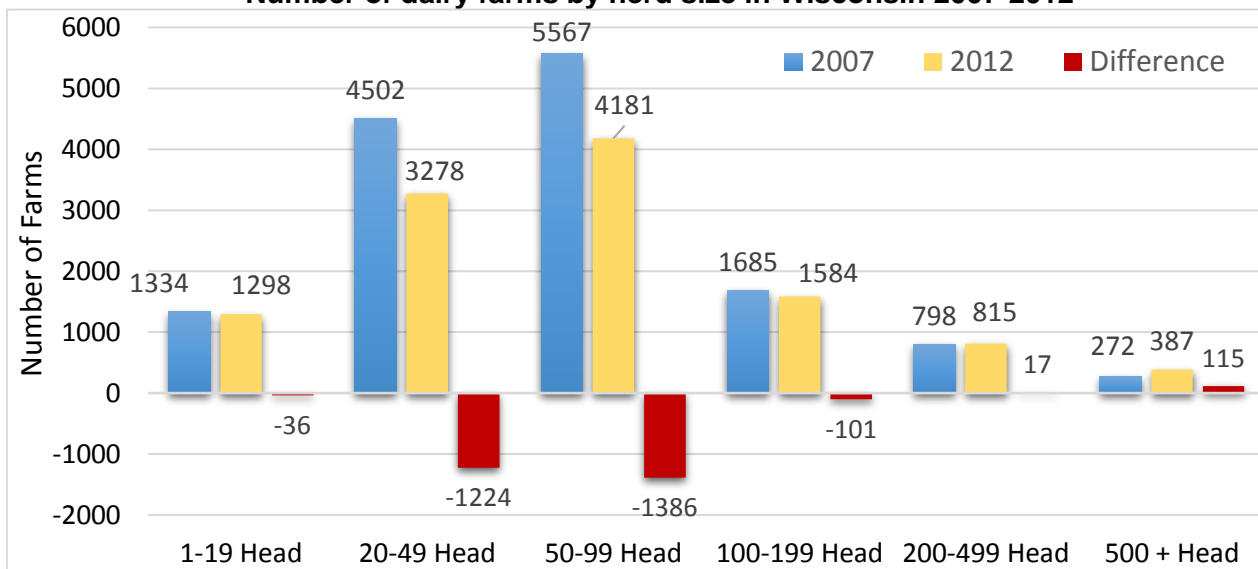
### Number of dairy farms in St. Croix County 1975-2015



Similar with cow numbers, the number of dairy farms in St. Croix County has declined. The sharpest declines occurred in the 1980's. The trend line for fewer farms continues, albeit at a slower rate.

### Additional Dairy Data - Statewide

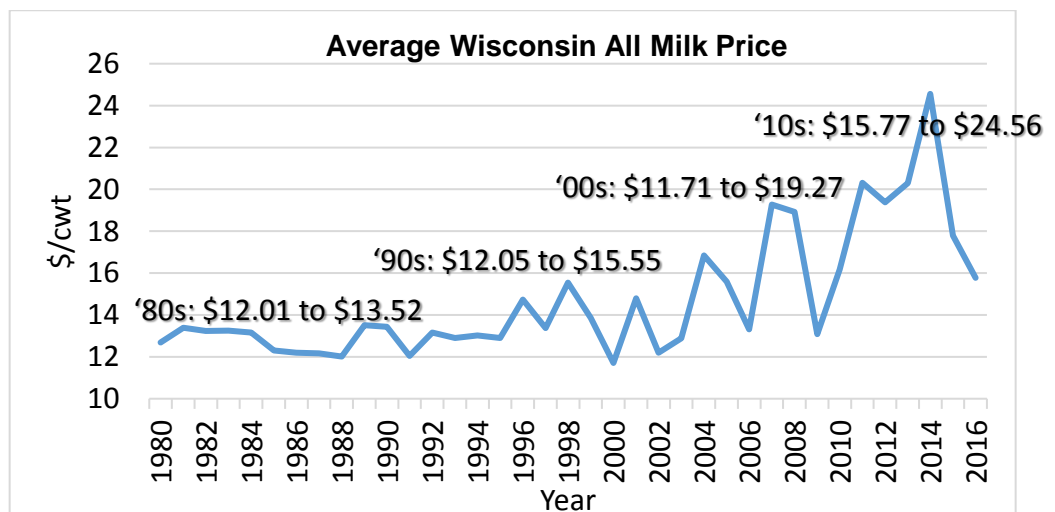
#### Number of dairy farms by herd size in Wisconsin 2007-2012



Census of agriculture data shows that in Wisconsin the number of dairy farms with less than 199 cows declined from 2007 to 2012. The number of farms with 200 cows or more increased. Herd sizes of 20-49 and 50-99 cows are by far the most predominate in Wisconsin, but are also declining the greatest numbers.

Since the mid-90s farm level prices have become more volatile, with larger year to year swings.

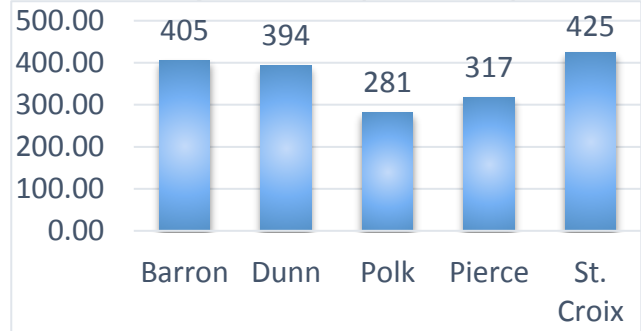
Source:  
Understanding  
Dairy Markets, Dr.  
Brian Gould  
<http://future.aae.wisc.edu/>



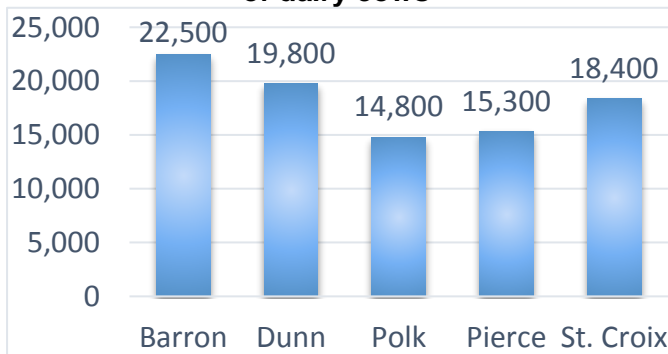
## ***Additional Dairy Data – Comparison Bordering Counties***

The following provide a snapshot comparison between St. Croix and neighboring counties for 2015, noting that year to year changes do occur.

**2015 comparison bordering counties total milk production (million/lbs)**



**2015 comparison bordering counties number of dairy cows**



**2015 comparison bordering counties number of dairy farms**

